Newsitem on terrorist activities in India

1113. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Indian Express of the 16th April, 1989 under the caption 'Terrorist activities in India, Abu Nidal JRA (Japanese Red Army) hand suspected;

(b) whether Government have conducted any enquiry in this regard; if so, what is the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Abu Nidal Terrorist organisation is suspected to be involved in the attack on the Alitalia crew at Sahar Airport on March 25, 1988. The case is *sub judice*. However, all State Intelligence/ Immigration check posts have been alerted to maintain sharp vigil on the movement of suspected terrorist elements.

Total land covered by the sick textile mills in the country

1114. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey to find out the total land area with sick textile mills which are lying closed and different parts of the country; and

(b) what is the estimated value of such land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

'Bail factor' in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act

1115. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a statement that appeared in Indian Express dated 16th April, 1989 wherein Shri V. K. Saraf, Police Commissioner, Bombay stated that bails factor in the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPSA) made its enforcement difficult, as persons released on bail frequently disappear; and

(b) if so, the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All major drug offences under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 were already non-bailable in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 by virtue of the level of punishments admissible. However, in view of reports that bail was being granted in such cases also, the need to strengthen the Act in this area had been felt. Accordingly, the Act has since been amended by the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 1988, *inter-alia* strengthening the provisions relating to grant of bail. The relevant section (section 37) provides that no person accused of an offence punishable for a term of imprisonment of 5 years or more under this Act shall be released on bail or on his own bond unless—

(i) the Public Prosecutor has been given an opportunity to oppose the application for such release; and

(ii) where the Public Prosecutor opposes the application, the court is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds for believing that he is not guilty of such offence and that he is not likely to commit any offence while on bail.